

### **REMARKS**

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claim 2 is amended. The Examiner is thanked for indicating the allowance of claims 3-21. However, the Applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, and respectfully submit that the claims may be allowable for other reasons. In view of the following, it is respectfully submitted that all of the currently unallowed claims are in condition for allowance.

#### **Rejection of Claim 1 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 As Being Anticipated By US Patent No. 6,424, 320 to Callway ("Callway")**

Claim 1 recites an actual switch operable to receive an input signal sequence that indicates a set of state transitions associated with the actual switch, and a dummy switch operable to receive a dummy signal sequence that indicates a set of state transitions associated with the dummy switch, the dummy signal sequence indicating state transitions that are mutually exclusive of state transitions indicated by the input signal sequence.

For example, referring, e.g., to FIGS. 1, 2 and 3 and paragraph 29 of the present application, in the event that a next actual state differs from a current actual state associated with an actual switch 130, dummy signal logic 250 may ensure that the state of a corresponding dummy switch 150 remains unchanged. In the event that a next actual state is identical to a current actual state associated with an actual switch 130, the dummy signal logic 250 may ensure that dummy switch 150 associated with the actual switch undergoes a switching transition.

In contrast, referring, e.g., to FIG. 1 and column 4, lines 6-50 of Callway, a VGA 110 provides a signal labeled RGB1. This signal is provided to a first input port of an analog switch 143. A second VGA 120 provides a signal labeled RGB2. The RGB2 signal is provided to a second input port of switch 143 and a second input port of a

switch 141. A switch 142 operates as a "dummy" switch that does not provide data to a user accessible video-out port. Each of the signals RGB1 and RGB2 are provided respectively to the first and second input port of switch 142. The switches 141, 142, 143 are controlled by a controller 130. Switch 143 receives a select signal from controller 130 to indicate which, if any, of the received color component signals RGB1 and RGB2 should be provided to a video port 151. Similarly, switch 141 receives a select signal from controller 130 to indicate which, if any, of the received color component signals RGB1 and RGB2 should be provided to a video port 152. The controller 130 selects for receipt by dummy switch 142 a RGB signal from the VGA that is not driving video to an output port (*i.e.*, through one of switches 141, 143). This allows for the non-driving VGA to provide a signal to the dummy switch, allowing for thermal consistency to be maintained by the VGAs when not driving a user accessible signal. In other words, every time one of actual switches 141, 143 undergoes a switching transition, the dummy switch 142 likewise undergoes a switching transition. Moreover, the dummy switch 142 undergoes a switching transition only when one of actual switches 141, 143 undergoes a switching transition. Accordingly, the state transitions indicated by a signal sequence to the dummy switch 142 of Callway are clearly not mutually exclusive of the state transitions indicated by a signal sequence to the actual switches 141, 143.

## **Claim 2**

The Applicants' undersigned attorney has rewritten claim 2 in independent form to overcome the Examiner's objection thereto.

The present patent application is in condition for allowance, and favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below for a telephone interview if, upon consideration of this response, the Examiner determines any pending claims are not in condition for allowance.

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Amdt. dated February 5, 2004  
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In the event additional fees are due as a result of this Response, you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

Respectfully submitted,  
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